Downeast Lakes LAND TRUST ®

November 2013 Volume 7, Issue 3

Downeast Lakes Traditions

Forests and Lakes—For People—Forever ®

CARB0N PROJECT AIDS WEST GRAND EFFORT

Two Years Left in Fundraising Campaign to Acquire Community Forest

This month, the Downeast Lakes Land Trust announced the successful sale of issued California compliance carbon offsets from its Farm Cove Community Forest Carbon Project. After covering costs of the carbon project, including long-term commitments, the initial sale of offsets provided DLLT with $1.1 million toward the purchase of the West Grand Lake Community Forest property.

With these funds, and other contributions received in 2013, DLLT has approximately $4.8 million left to raise by the end of 2015. Hoping to further narrow this gap, the trust has initiated a second carbon offset project on the West Grand property, in cooperation with landowner Lyme Timber. If successful, this second project could reduce the DLLT's purchase price by approximately $1 million, leaving $3.8 million to raise in grants and contributions.

DLLT is deeply committed to the West Grand Lake Community Forest Project. We believe excellent stewardship of the West Grand property is important to the future of the Downeast Lakes region. The property will be an outstanding asset, attracting visitors and residents, and sustaining the timber and recreation economies.

To learn more about carbon offsets, please visit www.downeastlakes.org and click the links for "What We Do" then "Forest Carbon Offsets"

PARTNERING WITH LOCAL SCHOOLS

Bringing Children Outdoors to Connect with the Community Forest

Considering the long-term importance of future generations to sustaining community stewardship, DLLT is excited our education programs are now making connections with local schools. Education and Communications Manager Tanya Rucosky has led our effort to add school programs to our existing mix of opportunities for children and adults.

The Downeast Lakes Land Trust now offers STEM and Common Core Standard linked school programs for elementary, middle and high school-aged students. Princeton, East Range II and Woodland Elementary Schools, as well as Woodland High School, have already enjoyed classes ranging from wild edibles to compass skills and identification of insects in streams.

All of our education programs are designed to help participants increase their appreciation and understanding of the natural resources of the Downeast Lakes region. Our hope is that these engaging programs also increase the attractiveness of the area for visitors, and quality of life for residents.

"We will constantly expand our school program repertoire based on requests from teachers," said Rucosky. "Science and natural resources are emphasized, while some programs also address physical education, history, art, and language arts priorities."

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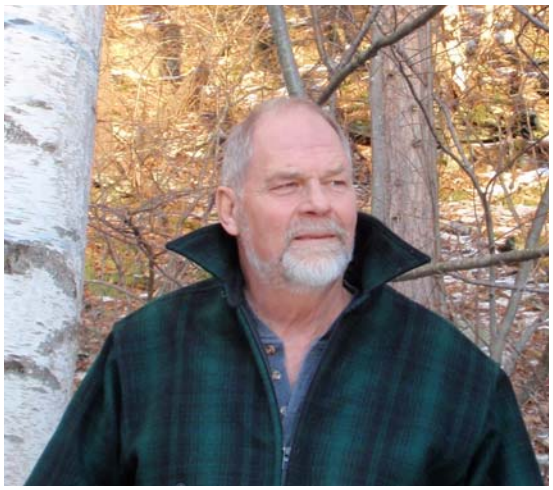
Windswept Pine, Big Lake.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

Gratitude for People



After a gorgeous autumn, the colors around our beautiful lakes have faded, but local determination to finish up our West Grand Lake Community Forest campaign burns brightly.

This past summer, DLLT's conservation award went to the people of Grand Lake Stream. They have supported and encouraged all the projects and programs from the start that have made the trust what it is – not merely a vast chunk of land and water but also a lasting tribute to all those who have nurtured those resources and made a living from them: guides, lodge owners, seasonal visitors and plain citizens of our community. Without them, we would be a small voice in the wilderness.

In this particular message, I'd like to express my gratitude for *that* indispensable resource, and to offer special thanks to Sue LaPlante, head of the trustees' education committee, and Tanya Rucosky, our staff education and communications manager, for their widening outreach to local school students. The more our young people know of our wonderful natural environment, the likelier they are to keep our mission – Forests and Lakes, For People, Forever – alive and thriving as one generation succeeds another.

Sincerely,

Syd Lea

Syd Lea

MISSION

The Downeast Lakes Land Trust contributes to the long-term economic and environmental well-being of the Downeast Lakes region through the conservation and exemplary management of its forests and waters.

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Downeast Lakes LAND TRUST ®

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FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

"Quickly and Forever"

It surprises me how quickly another year is sliding past. Time seems to rush by in part because of my work here with Downeast Lakes Land Trust. I feel very fortunate to spend my days working for the future of this remarkable place and the people who love it.

I also feel lucky to live here with my family. I greet each season eagerly for the beauty and outdoor recreation it promises – but also with a tinge of regret the previous season didn't last a bit longer. Each has its special attractions. Though our summers are best known – and most widely enjoyed – spring and fall are some of the best times to get out on our waters, and winter's frozen landscape offers endless opportunities.

There's no denying, however, economic challenges – some faced by those who live here, and others by some who would like to, but haven't been able to find a way to earn their living here.

The land trust has always sought to support the local economy, through conservation of our forests and lakes, and through exemplary forest management to support the recreation and timber economies. We are adding to an already outstanding quality of life. We also are making more people aware of Grand Lake Stream and the Downeast Lakes as a destination. Please invite others to join you in a visit. Some may just come back and call the Downeast Lakes home.

Our community forest conservation effort is widely viewed as a model. But we have yet to fully achieve our goals. We have two years left to attract the donations that will allow purchase of the West Grand Lake Community Forest – and if successful, will have generations of work ahead. Forests and Lakes – For People – FOREVER, is, of course, a long-term effort. I hope you will be a part of it. For the sake of those facing challenges now, we must also do our best to move quickly.

Sincerely,

Mark Berry

Mark Berry

A Grand Laker on the clear waters of West Grand with reflections of sky and shore.

Please Note:

Mailing Address:

Downeast Lakes Land Trust
4 Water St.
Grand Lake Stream, ME
04668

We haven't moved, but the postal system has changed. Please be sure to ONLY use our new address!

CORPORATE PARTNERS

Corporate Partners support our vision for the economic and environmental well-being of Grand Lake Stream and the Downeast Lakes Region. These businesses made gifts in 2013, and will be featured on downeastlakes.org through 2014.

Other businesses contributed to Downeast Lakes Land Trust in 2013 through their employee matching grant programs. Thank you also to these companies, and to the donors who created the matching grant opportunities!

Brook Trout ($1,000 or more)

- Bangor Savings Bank
- Chet's Camps
- Finite Carbon
- Grand Lake Lodge
- Hanscom's Construction
- Leen's Lodge
- The Lyme Timber Company
- MacPage
- Norton Insurance

Grand Laker ($250 or more)

- Darrow Foundation
- Davis Forestry Products, Inc.
- The First, N.A.
- Furbush Roberts Printing Co.
- Machias Savings Bank
- Patagonia Outlet, Freeport
- Prock Marine Company
- Weatherby's

Join This List with Your Business Contribution to Downeast Lakes Land Trust!

DOWNEAST LAKES

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Get more information and keep up to date at
www.downeastlakes.org

Downeast Lakes
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Winter and Spring Education Programs:

Tipping Field Trip:
Sun. Dec. 1, 1PM.

Wreath Making Party
Tues. Dec. 3, 6 PM.

"Revolution Downeast"
Sat. Jan. 25, 2 PM.

Community Ice Skate
Wed. Jan. 1, 1 PM - 3 PM.
Big Lake Landing.

Trees in Winter Woods Walk with Kyle Burdick Sun. Jan. 26, 1 PM.

Ice Cutting at Munson Island, with Dale and David Tobey.
Tentatively: *Feb. 1 or 2*, 9:30 AM.

Woodworking for Wildlife Workshop with Marie Roberts.
Sat. Feb. 15, 2 PM -4 PM. 253 Milford Rd.

Largemouth Bass with Greg Burr. Tue. Mar. 11, 7 PM.

Bamboo Fly Rod Making Class with David P. Van Burgel and Kathy J. Scott Mon.-Fri., April 21-25, 8 AM. *The cost of the class will be $650 per student. Limited to 5 students.*

Mother's Day Wildflower Walk.
Sun. May 11, 2 PM.

Map, Compass, & GPS Workshop with Al LaPlante.
Mon.-Wed., May 12-15, *Details pending.*

Water Navigation. Thu. May 16.

Events will meet at the Grand Lake Stream Town Building unless otherwise indicated. Events are still being added; check www.downeastlakes.org often, so you don't miss a thing!

Looking Ahead:

There are lots of reasons to plan a trip to Grand Lake Stream with friends and family, whether you want to get away to the woods or on the water, or to join in fun community events. We hope to see you!

Explorations & Adventures

Tuesdays, in July & August. 9:30-12 noon. Free Weekly educational activities for children ages 6-10.

New for 2014

We're developing a new weekly program for older boys and girls - ages 10-15 - with hands-on activities to learn outdoor and Guide skills, from Knots to Fires. Tentatively planned for Thursdays. Watch for details!

DLLT Annual Picnic

Sunday, Jul. 27, 12-2 pm.

12th Annual Meeting. Lunch served at 12. By reservation; RSVP to **info@downeastlakes.org**.

West Grand Lake Race

Sunday, Aug. 3 This will be the 10th annual race on West Grand Lake. Races for everyone, with awards and picnic lunch.

Community Events:

Other great community events - such as the 20th annual Grand Lake Stream Folk Art Festival, Grand Lake Stream Guides Association dinners, Grand Lake Stream Historical Society, 4th of July, and more, to appear in our summer newsletter and at **www.downeastlakes.org**.

DLLT Seeks Your Input

Ideas Will Guide Planning for West Grand Lake Forest

If you live in Grand Lake Stream or the Downeast Lakes region, used to live here, love to visit, or want to live here – we want to hear from you. We are interested in having a wide range of community perspectives about the West Grand Lake Community Forest property, its resources, and how it can best serve as an asset to the community and the region.

We will be striking a balance between maintaining flexibility for community stewardship and providing guaranteed protections for certain resources. So, although details of management may change over time, advance planning is essential. DLLT gained valuable input at a community discussion session in July, and the process is ongoing. We want to hear from you. Please call or email Mark Berry with your ideas or to arrange a time to get together and discuss the property, over maps indoors, or perhaps in the forest.

Cross-Country Visitors to DLLT Forest

Conservationists from Washington Inspired by Community Forest

In early October four leaders of a new community forest initiative in Washington State traveled to Grand Lake Stream, Maine to visit with the Downeast Lakes Land Trust and tour the Farm Cove Community Forest.

On West Grand Lake: Lee Whitely, Justin Hall, Paula Swedeen, Mark Berry, Joe Kane. Kirk Hanson Photo

Joe Kane, the Executive Director of the Nisqually Land Trust, attended a 2010 presentation on community forests by Mark Berry, Executive Director of DLLT and, "Came away so inspired that we launched the Nisqually Community Forest Project just a few months later, in partnership with Mount Rainier National Park and the Nisqually Indian Tribe."

The Nisqually River runs 78 miles from Mount Rainier to Puget Sound. The Nisqually Land Trust has worked for 25 years to permanently protect the water, wildlife, natural areas, and scenic vistas of the Nisqually River watershed, an area with rapid population growth.

With tens of thousands of acres of commercial timberlands in the watershed owned by distant investors, the concept of a community forest managed for the benefit of local people was very appealing. After completing a conceptual plan for a Nisqually Community Forest, Joe and other members of the planning team wanted to get an in depth understanding of the experience Downeast Lakes Land Trust has had with establishing a community forest.

Joining Kane on the trip to Maine were Justin Hall, Executive Director of the Nisqually River Foundation, Kirk Hanson, Director of the Northwest Certified Forestry Program for the Northwest Natural Resources Group, and Paula Swedeen, a consultant representing the Washington Environmental Council.

The group spent two days in Grand Lake Stream touring the Farm Cove Community Forest and meeting with board members and staff of DLLT. Spectacular fall weather and colorful foliage greeted the group as they toured the forests and West Grand Lake.

"We're happy to share our experiences with others seeking to conserve the forests that are important to their communities," said Berry, "We also learn from our visitors." Berry noted that the trust is honored that groups from as far away as Washington choose to travel to Grand Lake Stream to gain insights into community forest conservation.

"Downeast Lakes Land Trust's accomplishments are remarkable," said Kane, "We are returning home with ideas and inspiration as a result of our visit."

Dale Tobey shows cedar he harvests on the Community Forest for canoe-building.

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Downeast Lakes Land Trust
4 Water St.
Grand Lake Stream, ME 04668

NOTE NEW ADDRESS!

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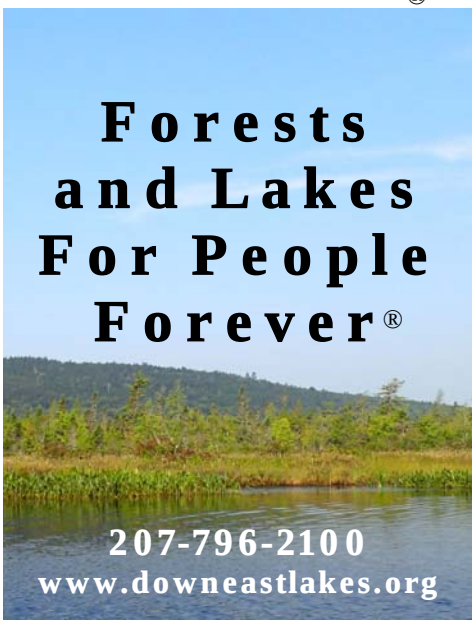

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All photos by Downeast Lakes Land Trust; aerials assisted by LightHawk

New Tools For Habitat Restoration

Downeast Lakes Land Trust has a long-term dedication to aquatic habitats in brook trout streams. Over six years, we have completed 20 projects restoring habitat and stream function at road stream crossings, mostly by installing metal arch culverts. These efforts are essential to maintaining brook trout habitat. This year, we added two new techniques to our tool kit.

We installed a concrete arch on Billy Brown Brook, a small tributary to Grand Lake Stream with a history of providing cold-water summer habitat for trout. The road crossing, owned by the Lyme Timber Company, provides the only vehicle access between Grand Lake Stream and the trust's Farm Cove Community Forest to the west. "This new concrete arch structure holds great promise to provide economic savings and long-term benefits over corrugated metal crossing structures," said Scott Craig, Project Leader at the Maine Fishery Resource Office for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. This project was featured by the Bangor Daily News, and will be included in a training video by Maine Audubon on stream crossing construction which should be completed by January 2014.

Concrete arch, Billy Brown Brook.

Installed wooden skidder bridge.

On two other crossings this fall, DLLT partnered with the Maine Forest Service and the Maine Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) in a workshop which constructed and installed wooden skidder bridges. These will be left in place to provide access for recreational users.

Habitat restoration projects also bring important economic benefits. Construction provides immediate employment, while intact roads support the recreation and timber economy. Finally, healthy streams are essential to the recreation experiences of residents and visitors.